

Howard F. Mangan

France

November 12, 1944

U.S. Army

Company G, 317<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment

80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division



Sources: *Chillicothe Gazette*, 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Veterans Association website: <http://www.80thdivision.com/>

Howard Franklin Mangan was born on April 16, 1918, in Xenia, Ohio, to Clarence and Mary (Sullivan) Mangan. His older sister, Helen, was born five years earlier. Clarence was a railroad engineer, and the Mangan family lived with Mary's parents on East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Xenia. Helen married and moved to Chillicothe, and after the parents drifted apart, Mary also resided in Chillicothe.

Howard did college work at the University of Dayton from 1936-1939. He married Emily Jackson and in 1940, they lived in a small house in Middletown when Howard worked for the F.W. Dodge Corporation, a homeowner's catalog company. They had two children, Howard and Marilyn. The family later moved to nearby Franklin after Howard began working at the Frigidaire plant.

Inducted into the Army in February 1944, Howard received serial number 35073498. He went overseas as an infantry replacement in September and was assigned to Company G, 317<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Allied advances had stalled in the Third Army's area when resources were diverted to the attempted crossing of the Rhine by airborne and armored forces in Holland. Offensive operations were resumed in November. On November 12, two units from XII Corps, the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, were working to bypass the fortress city of Metz and advance into Germany. This involved building bridges and crossing the Nied Francaise River. The operations officer's after-action report for November 12 noted that extremely heavy artillery and mortar fire was received throughout the day and night. The morning report for November 15 noted that Pfc. Mangan, Pvt. William Morrison, and Pvt. Melvin Pickerell had been missing in action since November 12. Their status was changed to killed in action on November 28.

On December 6, 1944, the *Dayton Herald* reported that the Emily had received notification from the War Department that her husband was missing in action. On December 13, the *Herald* updated the information that he was listed as killed in action. The *Chillicothe Gazette* reported this information on December 16 because Howard's mother and sister lived in Ross County.

Pfc. Howard Mangan was buried in Plot C, Row 10, Grave 23 of the Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France. Helen raised their two children and was active in the Dayton Federation of Women's Clubs before she eventually remarried and the three moved to Cincinnati.